Claims

1. A palletising bolster (10) for facilitating the formation of a pallet from a stack of boards (4) comprising first and second elongate strips (12) extending substantially parallel to each other and spaced apart thereby defining a gap (14) therebetween, a plurality of ribs (16) extending between the strips at spaced apart locations along the length of the gap characterised by endpieces (18) located between respective corresponding ends of the first and second strips, wherein the endpieces (18) are substantially longer than the ribs (16), in the longitudinal dimension of the bolster.

2. A palletising bolster according to claim 1 further characterised in that the strips (12) are of substantially rectangular cross-section and are oriented such that respective elongate principal faces of the strips face each other.

3. A palletising bolster according to any preceding claim further characterised in that the ribs (16) and the endpieces (18) are substantially cuboid and are dimensioned to extend substantially across the width and height of the gap (14).

4. A palletising bolster according to any preceding claim further characterised in that the length of the endpieces (18) is substantially three or four times the length of the ribs (16), in the longitudinal dimension of the bolster.

5. A palletising bolster according to any preceding claim further characterised in that the endpieces (18) comprise two or more superimposed cuboid sections (19), arranged on top of each other to span the gap between the ends of the first and second strips.

6. A palletising bolster according to any preceding claim further characterised in that the bolster comprises timber, such as culled MDF board.

7. A palletising bolster according to any preceding claim further characterised in that the elements of the bolster are secured together by glue.

8. A palletising bolster according to any preceding claim further characterised in that the material comprising the bolster of the invention occupies in the range of 35% to 55%, more preferably substantially 45%, of the volume defined by the length, width and height of the bolster.

9. A method of palletising a stack of boards (4) using one or more palletising bolsters (10) according to any preceding claim characterised in that the method comprises the steps of supporting the stack on a plurality of such bolsters arranged at spaced apart locations along a length of the stack and binding the stack with a plurality of steel straps (6) such that the straps extend around the stack and beneath corresponding bolsters (10).